

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1, 19 and 21 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please add claims 27 through 38 as follows:

27. (New) An *in vitro* diagnostic method for malaria in an individual comprising placing a tissue or a biological fluid taken from an individual in contact with a molecule or polypeptide composition, wherein said molecule or polypeptide composition comprises one or more peptide sequences bearing all or part of one or more T epitopes of the proteins resulting from the infectious activity of *P. falciparum*, under conditions allowing an *in vitro* immunological reaction to occur between said composition and the antibodies that may be present in the tissue or biological fluid, and *in vitro* detection of the antigen-antibody complexes formed.

28. (New) The molecule or polypeptide composition according to claim 27 wherein said molecule or polypeptide composition further comprises B epitopes of the proteins resulting from the infectious activity of *P. falciparum*.

29. (New) A kit for the *in vitro* diagnosis of malaria according to claim 27, wherein said kit comprises:

- Oct
Bis
- a) one or more molecule or polypeptide compositions, wherein said molecule or polypeptide compositions comprise one or more peptide sequences bearing all or part of one or more T epitopes of the proteins resulting from the infectious activity of *P. falciparum*;
 - b) the reagents for making up a suitable medium for carrying out the immunological reaction; and
 - c) the reagents allowing the detection of the antigen-antibody complexes produced as a result of the immunological reaction.

09837344-041901

30. (New) The kit according to claim 29, wherein said reagents in step c) bear a label or are recognized by a labeled reagent.

(31) (New) A polypeptide comprising at least one T epitope from a liver-stage specific protein produced by *P. falciparum*.

Sub
C1

32. (New) The polypeptide according to claim 31, wherein said T epitope ~~has~~ an amino acid sequence selected from the group of the amino acid sequence of Figures 9A-9D and the amino acid sequence of Figures 10A-10D.

33. (New) The polypeptide according to claim 31, wherein said T epitope consists of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 19.

34. (New) The polypeptide according to claim 33, wherein said T epitope is preceded by one or more of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOS. 2 to 18, wherein X₁ is Ser or Arg; X₂ is Glu or Asp; X₃ is Arg or Leu and X₄ is Glu or Gly.

35. (New) The polypeptide of claim 31, further comprising at least one B epitope from a liver-stage specific protein produced by *P. falciparum*.

36. (New) A vaccine composition directed against malaria comprising a molecule having one or more peptide sequences bearing all or part of one or more T epitopes resulting from the infectious activity of *P. falciparum* in the hepatic cells.

37. (New) The vaccine composition directed against ~~malaria~~ according to claim 36, wherein said T epitope is selected from the group of: an amino acid sequence of Figures 9A-9D, an amino acid sequence of Figures 10A-10D and an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO. 19.

38. (New) The vaccine composition directed against malaria according to claim 37, wherein said T epitope is preceded by one or more of the amino acid sequences of SEQ ID NOS. 2 to 18, wherein X₁ is Ser or Arg; X₂ is Glu or Asp; X₃ is Arg or Leu and X₄ is Glu or Gly.